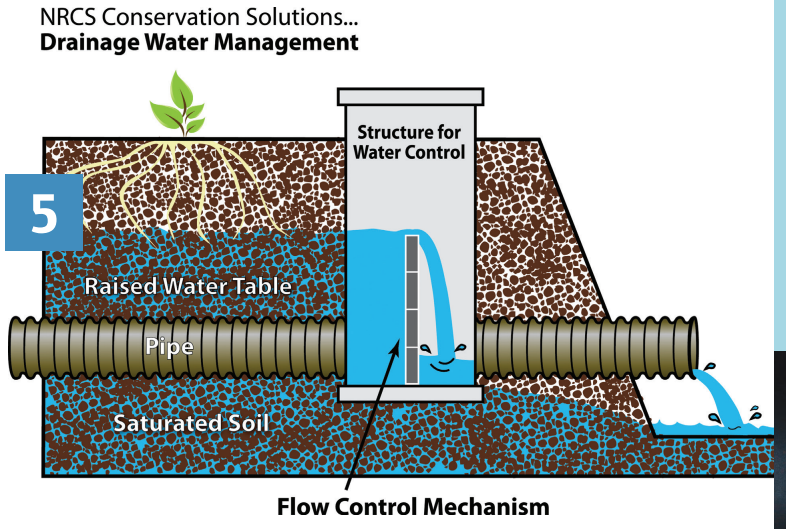
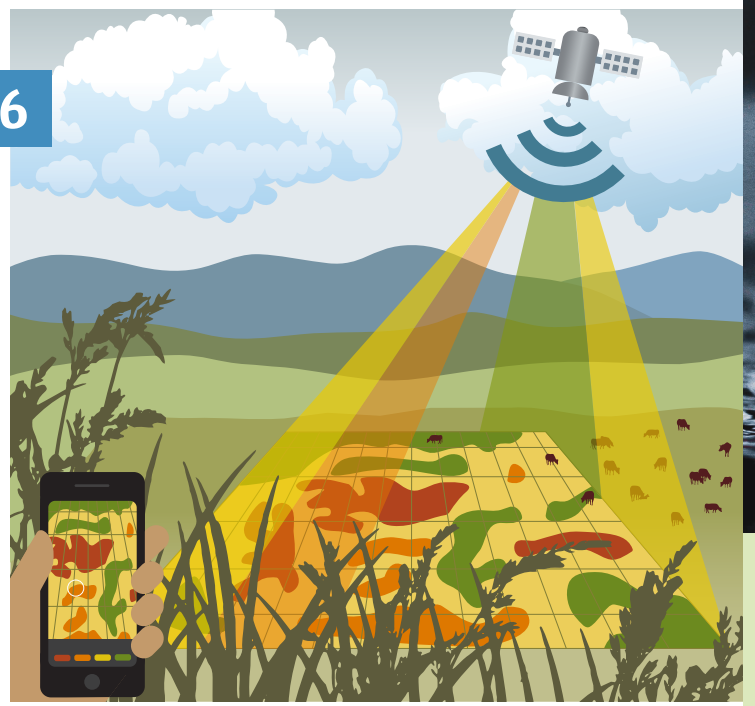
5. Drainage Water Management

- Installing control structures in tile drain systems to control water levels
- Reduces subsurface loss of nutrients, allows for greater farmer control of drainage and soil moisture

6. Precision Ag Management

- Using data, GPS, and automated machinery to improve in-field management
- Allows for more efficient management, potential cost savings on inputs





Credit: USDA-NRCS, Working Lands for Wildlife

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Agricultural Management

Practices to Protect Water Quality

Addressing water quality impacts from agriculture is a key challenge across much of the US. There are a number of practices that farmers can implement, both within farm fields or at the edge of fields, that protect local waterways from sediment, nutrients, or other farm chemicals. Many of these practices also provide substantial benefits to the farm operation, including savings on fuel or farm inputs, while sequestering carbon, building soil health, and providing habitat to wildlife.

Agricultural Practices
to Protect Water Quality

1. Conservation Tillage

- Reducing or eliminating tillage to maintain surface residue
- Reduces potential soil erosion, improves soil health, keeps chemicals on farm

2. Cover Crops

- Planting species between primary cash crops to maintain soil cover year round
- Reduces soil erosion, hold nutrients, and improve overall soil health

3. Grassed Waterways

- Planting perennial cover in erosion-prone areas within fields
- Reduces soil erosion, improves soil health, keeps chemicals on farm

4. Nutrient Management

- Managing the rate, placement, timing, and formulation of fertilizer to increase efficiency
- Can reduce fertilizer need, reduce potential loss from farm fields

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Credit: John Deere